

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2013



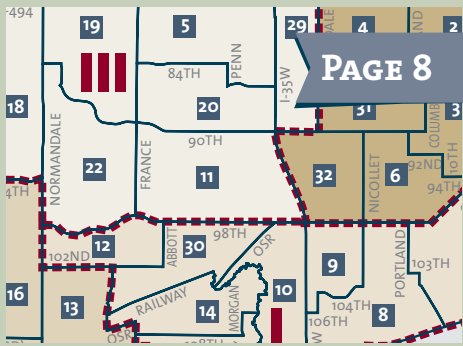
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NEW SURVEY RESULTS REVEALED BLOOMINGTON CONTINUES TO GARNER HIGH MARKS FROM RESIDENTS

Bloomington residents continue to be highly satisfied with the City of Bloomington's services and overall direction, according to a new survey. The survey was conducted by the National Research Center (NRC), an independent research firm based in Boulder, Colorado.

A total of 3,000 Bloomington residents were randomly selected to participate in the mail survey between May 1 and June 5, 2013. A total of 986 residents completed the survey.

This is the second year in a row that the NRC has conducted its National Citizen Survey in Bloomington. The survey allows cities to compare their results against those of 500 communities in the NRC's database, including 21 peer cities such as Scottsdale, AZ and Carlsbad, CA, that are similar to Bloomington in size, demographics and income levels.

Bloomington remains a good value for tax dollar

The survey found that residents continue to feel they receive good value for the property taxes they pay to Bloomington. For example, 72 percent of respondents thought that the value of City services for the taxes paid was excellent or good, up from 70 percent last year. This places Bloomington in the top 15 percent of the benchmark communities nationwide.

Respondents were also pleased with the overall direction the City is taking, with 73 percent reporting it was excellent or good. This put Bloomington in the top 10 percent of communities nationwide.

City services garner high marks

City employees were highly regarded as well, with 83 percent of those polled rating their overall impression of employee contact as excellent or good. Bloomington's employees scored much above the national benchmarks for their knowledge, responsiveness and courteousness.

In addition, 87 percent of respondents said that the services provided by the City of Bloomington were excellent

or good. Of the 35 services residents were asked to evaluate, 32 scored above the national comparisons and three were similar. Services receiving the highest marks were snow removal, drinking water, sewer, police, fire, traffic enforcement and land use planning and zoning. All were much above the national benchmarks. In fact, Bloomington's drinking water ranked fifth out of 267 jurisdictions.

More highlights

- 95 percent of those surveyed said that the overall quality of life in Bloomington is excellent or good.
- 94 percent of respondents would recommend living in Bloomington.
- 88 percent of those polled stated that it is essential or very important to maintain City services over the next five years.



Next steps

The survey results will help guide the City Council in setting the 2014 budget. The data will also help to assess where the City is doing well and where there is room for improvement.

For more information on the results of the resident survey, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CITIZEN SURVEY.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES

Each year during National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrates by opening all its stations to the public for an afternoon of food, fun and education. This year's Fire Station open houses will take place on **Saturday, October 12**. Scan the QR code to watch the video or visit the City's website. See page six for more information.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE OPEN HOUSES.



MAYOR’S MEMO

BLOOMINGTON OFFERS QUALITY SERVICES AT A COMPETITIVE PRICE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

A recent survey conducted by the National Research Center that compares Bloomington to more than 500 communities and 21 peer communities similar in population size and demographics found that residents continue to feel there is good value in the property tax dollars they pay in Bloomington. Residents also continue to rate the City services they receive very highly. In fact, some key services such as snow removal, drinking water and storm drainage placed in the top three among the peer cities. *See cover story.*

An effective way to compare the property tax costs of services across communities is to look at the amount paid by the owner of a property that falls at the midpoint of all the single-family homes in the community and therefore is representative of what homes in the community pay versus those in another community.

The owner of a median-valued, single-family home in Bloomington will pay \$67.82 per month in 2014 for City services, based on the preliminary property tax levy – this is the 8th year in a row at or below \$67.82.

Essential City services such as public safety and street maintenance make up almost 65 percent of City property tax costs and are provided to all single-family homeowners equally, meaning that police response to a medical emergency or possible criminal activity is the same whether you live in a home valued at \$175,000 or \$775,000. Street maintenance costs are a function of the street in front of the home, not the value of the home. The value of services such as parks and recreation are dependent on the number of users in a home, not the home’s value. When parks and recreation services are added to police, fire and public works costs, they make up at least 85 percent of the services covered by City property taxes.

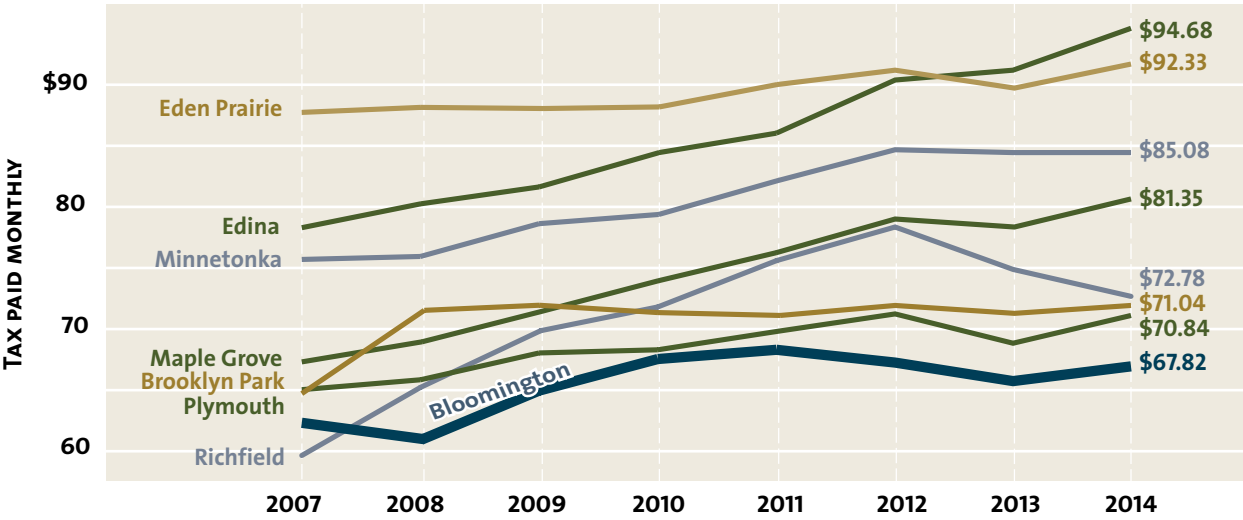
Our city is at the top of the class for financial strength and stability. Bloomington is one of only 27 cities out of more than 19,000 municipal governments in the U.S. that has achieved triple-A ratings from all three credit rating agencies. Our city is currently the only city in Minnesota to hold all three triple-A ratings. For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FINANCE.

CITY PROPERTY TAX ON MEDIAN VALUE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME

Not adjusted for property tax aids and fiscal disparities

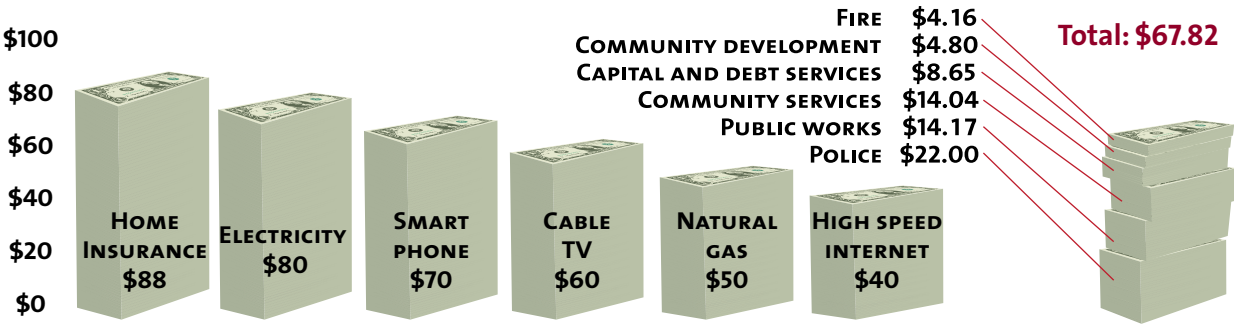
Bloomington’s property tax paid for City services is one of the lowest among the communities with populations over 20,000 in Hennepin County.



COMPARISON OF MONTHLY COST OF SERVICES

Per average single-family home on a lot

How does the value of City services stack up against your other monthly services? The graph below shows the monthly cost comparison of City services to other typical monthly bills, including natural gas, electricity and Internet.



LATEST CENSUS NUMBERS SHOW STRONG GROWTH

In 1970, a time when the Twins and Vikings were still playing ball at the old Metropolitan Stadium, the population in Bloomington was 82,000. Although Bloomington continued to grow with the number of households increasing by 69 percent in the 43 years since, smaller family sizes held population levels steady – until now. The US Census Bureau recently estimated that Bloomington added more than 3,000 residents in the last two years – from 82,893 in 2010 to 86,033 in 2012.

According to Planning Manager Glen Markegard, Bloomington’s rapid population growth from 2010 to 2012 is a reflection of new construction and redevelopment, as well as decreasing vacancy rates in existing housing and higher numbers of people per household in portions of the city.

“In 2011, the City issued building permits for 645 new dwelling units, more than in any year since the 1980s,” he said.

The growth, most of which comes from new multifamily and senior housing, is showing no signs of stopping.



BRIEFING

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT

In 2011, the state legislature appropriated \$15 million to help the City of Bloomington implement infrastructure improvements in the South Loop District, beginning with the Lindau Lane corridor project. The Lindau Lane construction project began this spring on the north side of Mall of America, which prepares the area for future development north of Mall of America. Other projects underway that are slated to be completed this fall include construction of a pedestrian bridge over Killebrew Drive connecting to the Radisson Blu hotel and rebuilding of the interchange at I-494 and 34th Avenue as a diverging diamond interchange. For detailed updates on these projects, visit the City’s website.

CITY RECEIVES GRANT TO FUND CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Bloomington was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support Terra Nova: Artful Development of Bloomington’s South Loop. Along with the grant, \$100,000 will be secured in matching funds to commission four to six public art projects that demonstrate the role art and artists can play in transforming the South Loop District’s character.

The City is partnering with Bloomington Theatre and Art Center (BTAC), Mall of America, the Bloomington Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and others on the project, to develop a plan to introduce art to the South Loop District over the next two years. During the grant period, BTAC, the City and partner organizations will create a process and establish funding to continue the creative placemaking during the District’s projected 40-year development and redevelopment process.

“The NEA funding will help the City engage local artists and arts organizations in cocreating a new reality in the South Loop – making it a dynamic place that piques curiosity, fosters delight and leaves a lasting impression,” Director of Community Development Larry Lee said.



MANAGING STORMWATER IN THE SOUTH LOOP

Reducing stormwater runoff is one of the surest ways to improve the water quality of lakes, rivers and streams in Minnesota. Stormwater often contains oil, chemicals, excess phosphorous, toxic metals and litter.

Stormwater in the South Loop District will be managed through low-impact design techniques such as rainwater gardens, permeable pavers, tree trenches and other water reuse methods to promote infiltration and reduce runoff. Parking lots and auxiliary street lanes will include permeable pavers that allow infiltration of stormwater. Tree trenches use special structural soils to promote healthy trees and increase runoff absorption and water quality. Urban-design rainwater gardens will capture runoff from the streets and provide areas of attractive landscaping.

Future phases of the South Loop District Plan will use underground storage and infiltration systems to replace surface stormwater ponds. Special storm sewer structures are used prior to the runoff going below the surface to capture grit, trash, debris and other pollutants. For more information, contact Civil Engineer Steve Segar at 952-563-4533 or e-mail ssegar@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPEN HOUSE

Are you concerned about traffic on local streets? The City’s Traffic Management Program uses a variety of techniques to help address neighborhood traffic concerns. Two neighborhoods will be selected for the 2014 program. Eligible neighborhoods may request traffic management devices that may decrease traffic on their streets, reduce traffic speed and improve safety.

An open house will be held **Monday, October 21, 5 - 7 p.m.**, in the Public Works Training Room, 1700 West 98th Street. City staff will be on hand to answer questions and listen to resident concerns.

For more information, call Traffic Management Coordinator Paul Jarvis at 952-563-4548 or e-mail pjarvis@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

DISTRICT NEWS

PENN AMERICAN PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT MOVES FORWARD

Bloomington’s vision for a vibrant, mixed-use, higher density Penn American District continues to be realized with each new development that occurs in the area. The proposed Penn American Phase 2 development project will add a five-story, 80,500-square-foot building with retail, a restaurant, a 108-room hotel, and a one-story, 28,400-square-foot grocery store. The City Council will vote on the development proposal in October.

Genesee Apartments and Townhomes made its debut in 2012 as the first phase of the redevelopment of the Penn American District. Bloomington-based developers StuartCo and United Properties built the mixed-use retail and residential development on the southeast corner of Penn Avenue and American Boulevard. The developers teamed with the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority on the project, which includes 212 rental apartments, 22 rental townhomes and 14,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space occupied by Which Wich and Moe’s Southwest Grill.

PENN AMERICAN DISTRICT PLAN

The Penn American District Plan will guide the redevelopment of the area over the next few decades. It envisions transforming the district’s character by creating:

- Attractive public spaces and streetscapes.
- Higher density uses including retail, office, hotel and multifamily residential.
- Improved transit and enhanced provisions for walking and biking.
- Pedestrian connections with the surrounding neighborhoods.
- High-quality architecture and site design.

The district’s vision includes projects to improve transportation in the area. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is working on a concept plan to rebuild the I-494/I-35W interchange. In addition, Metro Transit is preparing plans for a bus rapid transit (BRT) station and a park-and-ride in the area that will connect to the Orange Line BRT planned along the I-35W corridor.

For more information, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PENN AMERICAN.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The City is preparing to adopt the draft Penn American District Plan. There will be an open house on **Wednesday, October 23, 5 - 7 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road to provide information about the plan and gather public comment. The City Council will vote on the plan’s adoption in December.

TIME TO BUST SOME BUCKTHORN

Buckthorn is an invasive plant that grows quickly, choking out beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. That’s why Parks and Recreation and Park Maintenance are looking to team up with volunteers to clear buckthorn from Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104 Street, **Saturday, October 12, 9 a.m. - noon.**

If you would like to volunteer, meet at the park to receive instructions. Wear sturdy shoes, jeans, long-sleeve shirts and eye protection and dress in layers. Some cutting and removal tools will be provided; bring a bow saw, handsaw and lopping or hand shears if you have them. Label tools with your name and phone number. Water and snacks will be provided to all volunteers.

For more information, visit the City’s website or contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8693.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PARKS VOLUNTEER.

DID YOU KNOW?

Buckthorn was first brought to Minnesota from Europe in the mid-1800s and used as a popular hedging material. Soon after its introduction, it was found to be invasive in natural areas. The nursery industry stopped selling European buckthorn in the 1930s.



FRESH AND FABULOUS FARMERS MARKET

Be sure to visit the Farmers Market at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, before the season comes to a close on Saturday, October 12. The market moves indoors to the Bloomington Civic Plaza lobby on **Saturday, November 9 and December 14, 9 a.m. - noon.**

The December 14 market takes place during the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center’s Gifts in the Gallery show and sale, December 4 - 18.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FARMERS MARKET.



EARTH ACTION HEROES CUB SCOUT PACK PARK CHAMPIONS

Mike Lewis’s Cub Scout Pack #446 spends a lot of time at Moir Park. The park is close to Westwood Elementary School, where most of his five-to 10-year-old Cub Scouts attend school, and it’s the spot they use most for family fun days, picnics, disc golf and scout meetings. When it came time to decide on a long-term environmental service project to help his scouts earn badges, Lewis said adopting Moir Park was an easy decision.

The City’s Adopt-A-Park program offered the ideal opportunity for the Cub Scout pack to give back to the community and learn how to be good stewards of the environment at the same time.

“We wanted a park that was close to Westwood Elementary that we could clean up on a regular basis,” Lewis said. “Moir Park was the obvious choice because of its location and the boy’s connection to the area.”

Lewis said his goal was to teach his Cub Scouts that they each play an important role in protecting and preserving their community, and that cleaning Moir Park benefits not only the environment, but the city as a whole.

“It’s our way to give back to the community,” he said. Lewis and his Cub Scouts held their first cleanup in June. They plan to do four cleanups a year.

“We had a great experience,” Lewis said. “We formed a line and collected trash and recycling from the entire park. When we were done we consolidated the trash for the City to collect.”

Parks and Recreation Program Supervisor Jackie Doncavage oversees the Adopt-A-Park program.

“Residents really take pride in their parks,” she said. “On any given night if you go out and visit our bigger parks, you will see hundreds of people using them.”

More than one third of Bloomington is designated parks and open spaces. Park Maintenance crews spend a significant amount of time maintaining Bloomington parks. Doncavage said residents can help by volunteering at a park near their home or work.

“Residents often know better than we do what needs to be done in their park,” Doncavage said. “Park Maintenance does a great job, but it always helps to have the assistance of a dedicated group of volunteers.”

Bloomington’s Adopt-A-Park program began as a way to draw attention to the uses and intrinsic value of the City’s diverse parks and open spaces. Local residents, service organizations and businesses are invited to volunteer to help beautify and maintain Bloomington’s vital resources. By adopting a bit of Bloomington, you are taking pride in your community.

To adopt a park, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

ADOPT-A-PARK FAQs

What can be adopted?

You can adopt a water body, an entire park, a trail or a particular area such as a playground, flower garden, tree, shrub or undeveloped park land.

What do I have to do if I Adopt-A-Park?

As a volunteer, you have a unique opportunity to donate time to your community and enjoy the results of your hard work. Park maintenance activities include:

- Picking up litter and keeping storm drains clean.
- Reporting illegal dumping, graffiti and other park hazards.
- Caring for trees and native plants.
- Assisting in special park projects.
- Monitoring recycling.
- Removing buckthorn and other invasive plants.

What are the benefits of adopting a Bloomington park?

Your efforts increase public awareness of the importance of protecting our natural resources, generate pride in our parks and water bodies and demonstrate a commitment to your community. As an individual, group or business, you can create a better environment for yourself and the next generation.

To learn more about the City’s park enhancement programs, scan the QR code to watch a video or visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PARK PROJECTS.

FALL REMINDER

When leaves enter storm sewers, they travel into ponds and lakes, causing excess algae growth that severely impacts the health and appearance of the water. In addition, leaves block storm drains and can cause flooding in neighborhoods. As you rake or blow leaves in your yard this fall, be sure to keep them off the street and out of storm drains. You can also help protect our water bodies by removing leaves and other debris from nearby storm drains. When cleaning up, remember to use compostable bags for yard waste.



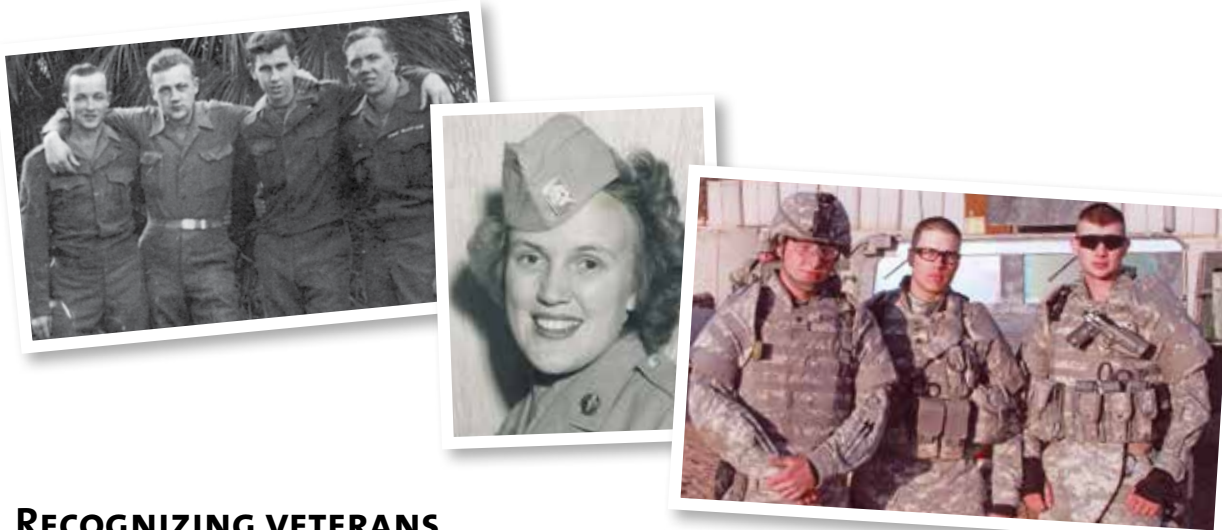


HUMAN SERVICES

CARING FOR OUR CITIZENS

Human Services provides exceptional programs and services to community members of all ages. You can learn about our programs in the *Human Services Community Resource Catalog*. Pick up your catalog at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or find it online. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.



RECOGNIZING VETERANS

VISIT WITH VETERANS BREAKFAST AND HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

Human Services will pay tribute to Bloomington veterans and active duty servicemen and servicewomen with a veterans' breakfast followed by a free Fort Snelling historical presentation on **Friday, November 8, 9 - 11 a.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The cost for both the breakfast and historical presentation is \$5 per person. Veterans and active duty personnel may attend at no cost. Registration is required.

VETERANS PHOTO WALL

Don't miss the annual Veterans Photo Wall, on display through November at Creekside and Bloomington Civic Plaza. The collection continues to grow each year and includes more than 275 photos of men and women from all branches of service. If you would like to include a photo for the 2013 display, bring your original photo to Human Services at Creekside or Bloomington Civic Plaza (where it will be scanned and returned to you) or e-mail a photo to humanservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

COFFEE TALK

Join Human Services for a free Coffee Talk event featuring Bob Peters, author of *A Dive Too Deep*, **Tuesday, November 5, 10 - 11 a.m.**, at Creekside. Peters shares his story of the diving accident that permanently paralyzed him from the shoulders down and the chilling prognosis from his doctor that he would not live to be 40 years old. Peters survived despite those odds and after 14 months in the hospital returned to work. Since then, he has been honored for his tireless efforts on behalf of local, state and national organizations to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Copies of Peters's book will be available for purchase.

DON'T LET THE FLU BUG YOU

Bloomington Public Health will be providing flu shots at Creekside beginning October 11. No appointment is necessary. Bring your insurance or Medicare card if you have coverage. The cost is \$27 without proof of insurance. There is no charge for those unable to pay due to financial hardship. Children 17 and under must have a parent or guardian present to receive a shot.

Clinics will be held on the following dates:

- Friday, October 11, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 6, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 8, 10 - 11:30 a.m.



FIT OVER 55

Human Services wants you to keep healthy and active with the following programs for adults age 55 and older. To register, call 952-563-4948, e-mail reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us, or visit the City's website. Programs are at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, unless otherwise noted.



WALK 2 RUN

Walk 2 Run is a free fitness program for adults age 55 and older. The program consists of weekly group walks and runs at various Bloomington locations. The group meets **Saturday mornings at 9 a.m.** Follow the City on Twitter to learn about weekly walk locations or call the number above.



LIVING WITH DIABETES

Don't miss this special presentation on diabetes, **Thursday, November 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m.**, at Creekside Community Center. Dr. Kent Bratten and Dr. Heather Jensen of Allina Health Clinic in Bloomington will share information on diabetes and answer your questions. Healthy snacks will be served.



INCREASE YOUR MOBILITY

Human Services has wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches available for short-term loan at no charge. This equipment may be used for up to four weeks. A signed waiver and \$25 refundable deposit are required. For more information, call or e-mail Human Services.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SENIOR FITNESS.



A MEAL TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Join your friends for a free Thanksgiving feast on **Thursday, November 28, 12:30 p.m.**, at Bloomington Covenant Church, 10150 Xerxes Avenue South. Registration deadline is November 22. Food and cash donations are currently being accepted to help with the event. Call 952-944-6332 to make a contribution. The meal is cosponsored by Bloomington Covenant Church and Good in the Hood. Limited transportation available.



FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES

This year's open houses take place on **Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at all fire stations. Highlights include Public Works' vehicle displays, car seat inspections at Station 2 (appointment required), and Bomb Squad and Canine Unit demonstrations at Station 4. All stations will offer a coloring contest and treats for kids, smoke detector raffles and visits with Sparky the Fire Dog.

FIRE STATION LOCATIONS:

- Station 1 10 West 95th Street
- Station 2 10601 Xerxes Avenue South
- Station 3 2050 East 86th Street
- Station 4 4201 West 84th Street
- Station 5 10540 Bush Lake Road
- Station 6 8601 Lakeview Road

For more information, contact the Fire Department at 952-563-4801.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.



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PREVENT COOKING FIRES IN YOUR HOME

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. By following a few safety precautions you can prevent cooking fires and stay safe.

- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or oven.
- Stay in the kitchen while cooking. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are baking, roasting or boiling food, check it often. Always remain in the home while cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire (dish towels, oven mitts) away from the stovetop.

If you have a cooking fire:

- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- Keep a lid nearby to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turning off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it has completely cooled. Never put water on a grease fire.
- If you have a fire in the microwave, leave the door closed, turn the microwave off and unplug it from the wall. If the fire does not go out, get outside and call 9-1-1.
- If you cannot extinguish a fire on your own, get out of the house. Close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1.

MEET VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PETE MILLER

City Fire Inspector Pete Miller has served as a volunteer firefighter in Bloomington for six years.

- Q:** What made you decide to become a firefighter?
A: A friend of mine thought I'd be a good fit for the job and recommended I apply. I thought it would be great because it would be both physically and mentally challenging.
- Q:** What's your most memorable experience?
A: An apartment fire that took place in 2011. It was minus 10 degrees outside that morning. It was so cold, our face masks were freezing and not working properly. I'll never forget that.
- Q:** What do you do when you're not on call?
A: I enjoy spending time with my wife Amanda, three-year-old son and newborn daughter. I also enjoy working out and playing basketball.
- Q:** What's the one tool you can't work without?
A: My halligan, because it is so versatile. It's a tool used to open doors and walls. Taller firefighters can also use it to pull down ceilings.



MAKE THE SAFE HOUSE PLEDGE

Parents now have a valuable resource to help keep drugs and alcohol out of the hands of kids. The Bloomington Safe House Parent Network website gives you the tools you need to make your home safer and provides an instant network of support with other parents. The Safe House Parent Network website is sponsored by Bloomington Public Schools as part of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program coordinated by Bloomington Public Health.

Take action to prevent underage drinking:

- Clearly share expectations that your child not use alcohol or drugs.
- Actively supervise children and youth in your home.
- Secure alcohol and medications in your home to prevent easy access.
- Plan five family meals per week with your children.
- Join the Bloomington Safe House Parent Network. Visit [www. Bloomingtonschools.info/safehouse](http://www.Bloomingtonschools.info/safehouse).



SCHOOL BUS STOP SAFETY USE CAUTION WHEN APPROACHING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS

Since January, there have been 150 reports of school bus stop arm violations in Bloomington. Motorists are required by law to come to a full stop at least 20 feet from the bus when the arm is extended and the lights are flashing. The only exception to this rule is if there is a hard median separating the oncoming traffic from the bus. Remember to always use extreme caution when approaching a stopped school bus. Failure to stop could result in fines and jail time.

For more information, contact Bloomington Police Officer Mark Schiebel at 952-563-8747 or e-mail mschiebel@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

CAMERAS CAPTURE SCHOOL BUS STOP VIOLATIONS

To help curb the number of school bus stop arm violations and keep kids safe, many new Bloomington school buses are being equipped with cameras. According to Officer Mark Schiebel, 15 new school buses in Bloomington will have cameras installed near their stop arms and inside the passenger areas. The cameras will make it possible to capture the license plate numbers of vehicles that fail to stop when a bus's stop arm is extended. The cameras are being funded by Bloomington Public Schools.



HAVE A HOWLIN’ GOOD HALLOWEEN

Bloomington’s Annual Citywide Halloween Party, sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Richfield-Bloomington Credit Union and the Bloomington Optimist Club, is a guaranteed scary-good time. This year’s event takes place on **Thursday, October 31, 6 - 8 p.m.**, at the Bloomington National Guard Armory, 3600 West 98th Street. All Bloomington preschoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited. Admission is free.

Donations of nonperishable food items to the VEAP Food Shelf will be accepted. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: HALLOWEEN



FLIP OUT WITH L’IL FLIPSTERS

L’il Flipsters Gymnastics is back again for children, ages 30 months to kindergarten. This mobile gymnastics organization provides gymnastics training in a safe and fun environment. New sessions begin every month. Classes are held at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, Tuesday mornings and afternoons and Friday mornings. Cost is \$30 per three-week session, \$40 for a four-week session, and \$50 for a five-week session.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FLIPSTERS



BORN AGAIN JOCKS

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men 55 years and older of all skill levels to enjoy volleyball at Jefferson High School, 4001 West 102nd Street. For more information, call Don Wilkie at 952-895-6087 or Don Wagner at 952-831-4460.

CITY HONORED IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Bloomington is a five-time national communications award winner in this year’s City-County Communications and Marketing Association’s (3CMA) awards contest. Four of Bloomington’s awards were 3CMA’s prestigious first-place Savvy award.

Bloomington Today was recognized with the Savvy award in the category of TV and Video News Programming. The *Insider* received the Savvy award in the internal newsletter category. The *Briefing* was honored with the Award of Excellence in the external newsletter category and the *Corporate Report to the Community 2012* was highly praised with two Savvy awards – one in the category of Annual Reports and one in the category of Graphic Design.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: AWARDS.

VOLUNTEER AT AN ICE RINK

Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers to help at neighborhood warming houses. Responsibilities include opening and closing park shelter buildings, supervising rink activities and interacting with skaters. Rinks are open mid-December through mid-February, depending on the weather. The application deadline is November 15. All potential volunteers are interviewed and screened. Training takes place in December. For an application, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: VOLUNTEER PARKS.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing six arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8575.



For theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CENTER FOR THE ARTS.

BLACK BOX THEATER

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW: THE SONGS OF BURT BACHARACH AND HAL DAVID

Jennifer Eckes and Arne Fogel will perform cherished hits by Burt Bacharach and Hal David, Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 3, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and \$15 for students under age 25.



INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

37TH ANNUAL MEMBERS’ JURIED ART EXHIBITION

Bloomington Theatre and Art Center’s talented members will display their eclectic collection of artwork, **October 17 - November 24**. An opening reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 6 - 8 p.m.

GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

The annual Gifts in the Gallery holiday sale, **December 4 - 18**, is sure to have something for everyone on your list. You’ll find lots of beautiful one-of-a-kind, artist-created gifts in a relaxing and creative setting. Be sure to attend the festive reception on Wednesday, December 4, 6 - 8 p.m., which will kick-off the sale with refreshments, live music and door prizes. What a great way to start the holidays!



SCHNEIDER THEATER

THE NUTCRACKER

The Continental Ballet Company presents The Nutcracker Ballet, **November 29 - December 8**, with special themed performances on select nights. Tickets are \$25 adults, \$19 seniors and students and \$13 children. For more information, call 952-563-8562 or visit www.continentalballet.com.

ATRIUM GALLERY

ANYWHERE I WANDER

Saint Paul artist Gregory Graham presents *Anywhere I Wander*, a collection of small-scale paintings, **through November 15**.

GENERAL ELECTION

CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Exercise your right to vote in Bloomington’s 2013 General Election. To watch candidate interviews, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ELECTION.

ON THE BALLOT

CITY OFFICES

COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

- Zavier Bicott
- Cynthia Bemis Abrams

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT I

- Dwayne A. Lowman
- Richard Bohnen

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT II

- Thomas Hulting
- Andrew Carlson

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT III

- Steve Peer
- Jack Baloga

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT IV

- Jon Oleson
- Ken Johnson

BLOOMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD #271 (VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR)

- Lyle Abeln
- Arlene Bush
- Tom Bennett
- Tim Culver
- Ricardo Oliva
- Jim Sorum
- Dawn Steigauf

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballot applications are available through Monday, November 4, at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

Tell the election judge if you need assistance at your polling place. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have difficulty in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Eligible voters must be registered to vote. Preregistration closes **Tuesday, October 15, 5 p.m.** Voter registration applications are available from most government offices and on the City’s website. If you are unable to preregister, you can still register at your polling place on Election Day with one of the proofs of residence authorized by Minnesota law. Visit the City’s website for more information.

NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT

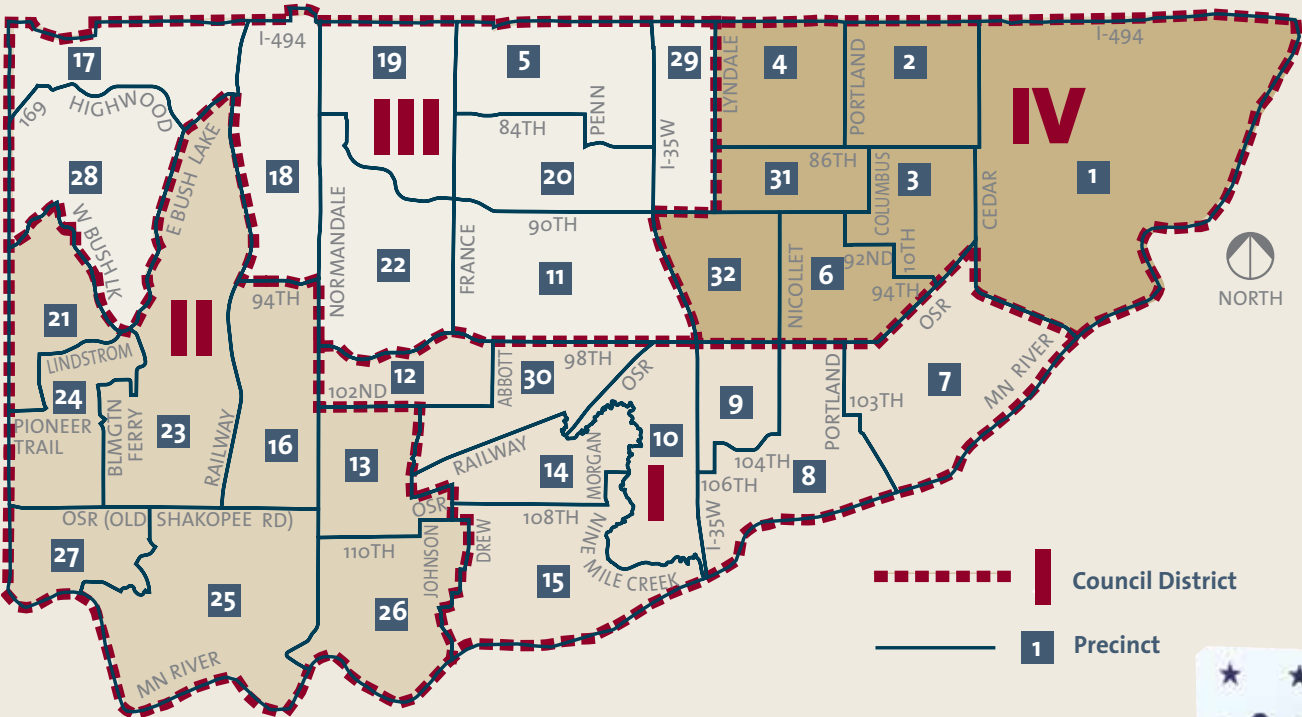
Residents will use a new voting tabulator and ballot box when they vote this year. Equipment demonstrations are available at the City Clerk’s Office.

SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample ballots are available to view online.

2013 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	South entrance – Door 3, South lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road	SW entrance South lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary Church 9900 Lyndale Ave South (located in new building)	Main entrance Door 9 South lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Nat’l. Guard Armory 3300 West 98th Street	Main entrance (W) West lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (Left doors) North lot
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance Northeast lot

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS ONLINE

The Office of the Secretary of State is offering voters an easy way to check whether or not they are registered to vote.

Visit www.sos.state.mn.us and select: Elections, Voting, “Am I registered to vote?” Once you provide your name, birth date and address, the service will tell you whether or not you are registered to vote at your address. The service also provides information on upcoming election dates, polling places and more, all specific to your legal residence.



Locate your precinct polling place prior to Election Day by using the above map or by visiting our website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: POLLING SITES.

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
21 Hyland Visitors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot
22 St. Michael’s Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard	Main entrance (E) Southeast lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot – disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance North lot and street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

VOTING INFORMATION: 952-563-8729; www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, KEYWORD: VOTING.